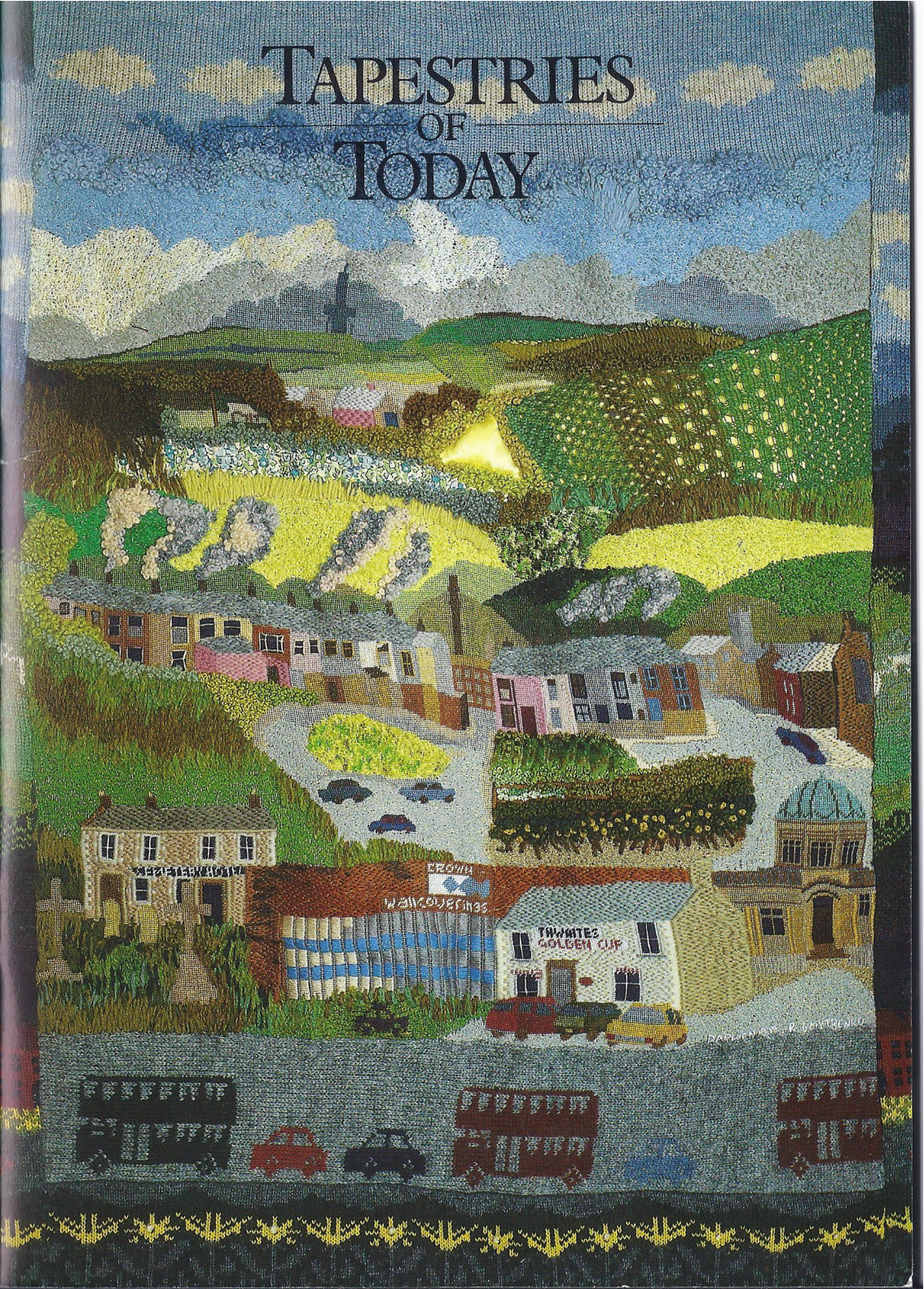
TAPESTRIES OF TODAY



TAPESTRIES OF TODAY

An exhibition sponsored by
Crown Wallcoverings and the
Contemporary Art Society

FOREWORD

It is a great pleasure for the Contemporary Art Society to be co-operating once again with Crown Wallcoverings in a touring exhibition which will benefit art students, established artists, public galleries and the society, as did our joint project, Interior Motives, in 1978. For this, Crown Wallcoverings won one of only ten awards, under a new scheme organised by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts in order to highlight the support that the business community is giving to the arts in Britain. There were 143 nominees for the awards.

Interior Motives was an exhibition of pictures. TAPESTRIES OF TODAY shows another way of covering walls – hangings made by students, craftspeople and artists. The Contemporary Art Society recognises that fine artists no longer limit themselves to the traditional media of paint, paper and stretched canvas and that work of the highest quality is to be found in other materials and methods. So members of our committee were happy to be among the judges giving prizes to students on the basis of the artistic, as well as the technical, merit of their entries. And the society will be happy to present to public collections the purchased works by established artists which will be given to us by Crown Wallcoverings after the tour.

Thus the company is helping the society in both of its objectives: to further the development of contemporary art and to present works by living artists to public galleries. Moreover in its nationwide tour, TAPESTRIES OF TODAY will draw the society and its activities to the attention of a wide audience and thus, we hope, bring us many new members. Their subscriptions have been our main source of income ever since the society was founded seventy years ago; our purchase funds are now augmented by grants from the Arts Council of Great Britain and Scotland and also, recently, by contributions from corporate members of whom Crown Wallcoverings was one of the first. We thank the firm for setting an example of sustained patronage of the visual arts which we hope many others will follow.

Nancy Balfour
Chairman, Contemporary Art Society
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1

INTRODUCTION

This exhibition TAPESTRIES OF TODAY is the culmination of the second joint sponsorship event by Crown Wallcoverings and the Contemporary Art Society. It was felt most appropriate that Crown sponsor a competition for wall-hangings, the origin of wallpaper, and so full-time students from colleges of art throughout the country were invited to submit entries for the TAPESTRIES FOR WALLS competition.

Crown commissioned Rene Dmytrenko to produce the wallhanging *Darwen '79* which forms the centrepiece of this exhibition and also commissioned the Contemporary Art Society to purchase seven important wallhangings by established artists. These works, together with the students' winning and commended tapestries and two wallhangings lent through the Contemporary Art Society, comprise TAPESTRIES OF TODAY.

Crown Wallcoverings would like to express its thanks to the Contemporary Art Society for their expert artistic guidance and in particular to Ann Sutton, without whose devotion and dedication this fascinating exhibition would not have been possible. The response to this jointly sponsored competition was overwhelming and the standard of entries provided the judges with a herculean task. Crown would also like to thank Robin Campbell DSO, retired Director of Art, the Arts Council of Great Britain, who chaired the judging panel, William Packer, art critic of the Financial Times, and Pamela Jarvis, design consultant to Crown. Prizes of £300 were awarded to each of the four students judged to have produced the best wallhangings with a fifth prize of £300 being shared by two.

Crown Wallcoverings would like to express its thanks too to all the colleges and students who participated in TAPESTRIES FOR WALLS. They are delighted to be able to offer students the chance to exhibit their work alongside the wall-hangings of some of Britain's leading contemporary artists.

Rene Dmytrenko
Exhibit *Darwen '79*
Born on New Years' Day 1953, she was brought up in Lancashire of Ukranian parents. During her foundation year at Rochdale College of Art her interest in fabrics developed. She took her degree in embroidery at Manchester Polytechnic. She also studied photography and her attention to detail is noticeable when translated on to canvas reflecting her trained eye and knowledge of Lancashire life.

Her work – Darwen '79 – is a typical example. The centrepiece of this wall hanging highlights the town and was mainly done by hand – taking 200 hours to complete. The statues were hand laid, whereas the patterned panels were machine knitted. Hand embroidery on the knitted parts adds detail and texture.

Artists whose works have been purchased by the Contemporary Art Society on behalf of Crown Wallcoverings.

Peter Collingwood OBE
Exhibit *Macrogauze 3D Wall-hanging*
Originally trained as a surgeon, Peter Collingwood then studied weaving, becoming Britains' leading contemporary rug weaver. Originator of the 'Macrogauze technique of weaving, he has produced many 3 dimensional wall-hangings, a large number commissioned by public authorities and private collectors.

Mary Farmer
Exhibit *In the Blue*
Born in 1940, Mary Farmer studied painting at the Beckenham Art School, and is now a part-time lecturer at West Surrey College of Art & Design. Her work has been exhibited throughout the world, including the Zurich Trade Fair and the Design Centre, London, and is in private collections.

Diana Harrison
Exhibit *Squares*
Born in London, 1950, Diana Harrison studied embroidery at the Goldsmiths College, London, and obtained her M.A. at the Royal College of Art in printed textiles, a subject she now teaches at the West Surrey College of Art & Design.

Diana Harrison specialises in spray dyed satins for soft furnishings and hangings. She has contributed to many exhibitions at home and abroad including the 3rd International Exhibition of Miniature Textiles, 1978.

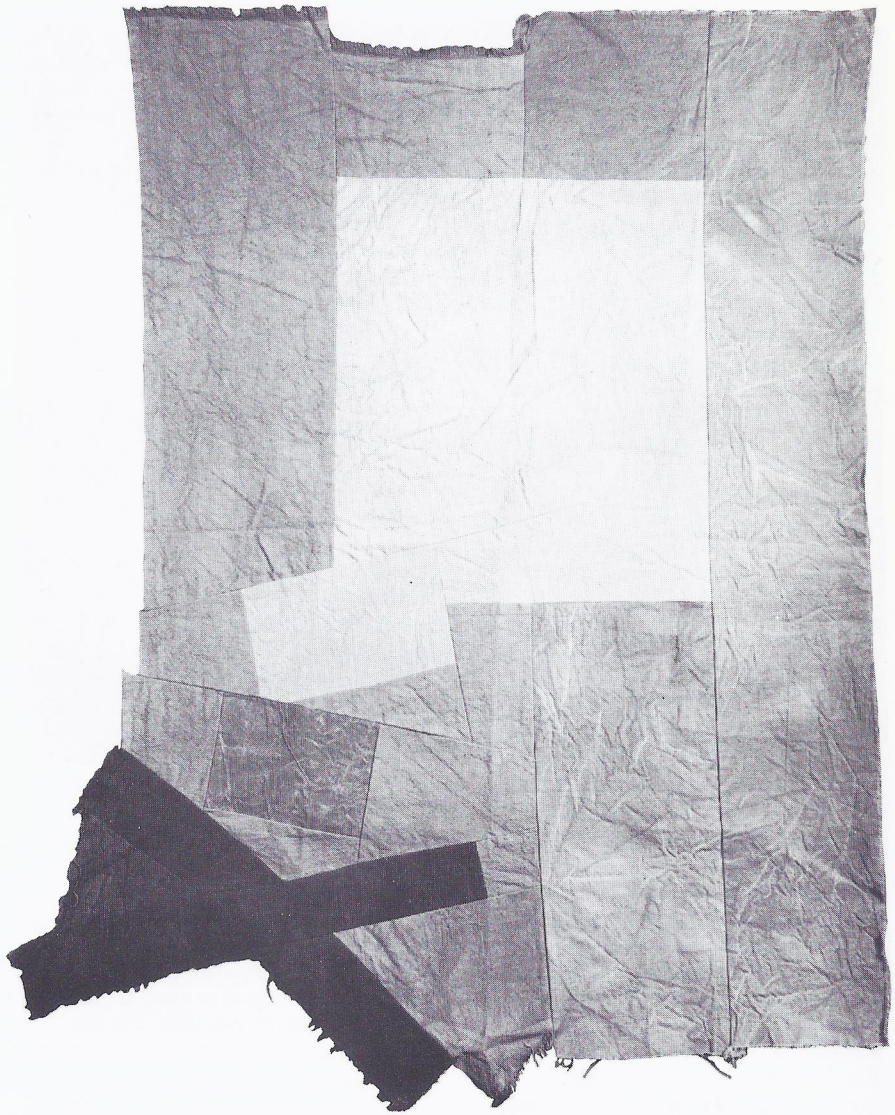
David Hill
Exhibit *Woven Hanging* (untitled)
Born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, David Hill was trained at the Camberwell School of Art and Crafts in London. Since leaving college, he has been a design consultant for a number of companies. At present he is a Senior Lecturer at the Camberwell School of Art and Crafts and contributes to many exhibitions both in the U.K. and Germany.

Maureen Hodge
Exhibit *Anna Ahkmatova – Requiem 1961 (two parts)*
Born 1941 in Perth, Scotland. Maureen Hodge studied at the Edinburgh College of Art where she was awarded the Andrew Grant post graduate scholarship in tapestry, she is now a lecturer at this college.

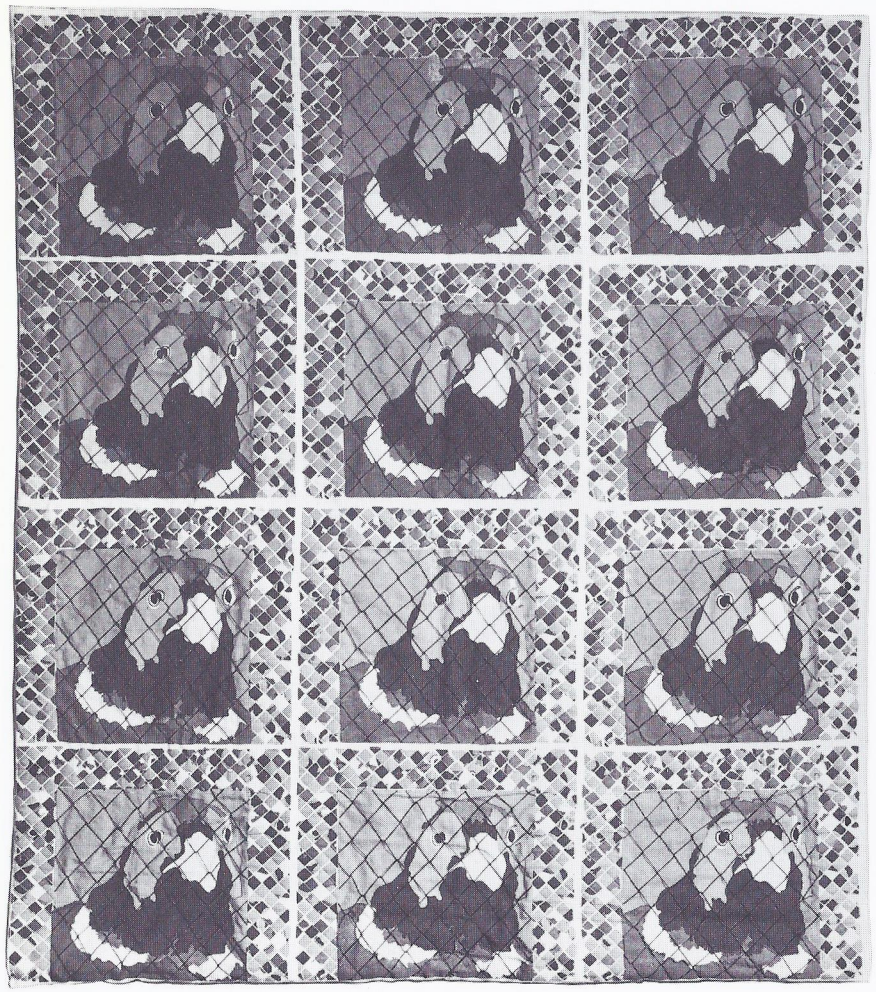
Maureen Hodge is a founder and committee member of the Scottish Tapestry Arts Group and has exhibited in Switzerland, Poland, Australia, Canada, Holland and the U.K.

Paul Nicholls
Exhibit *Boxed Threads*
Now living in Gloucestershire, Paul Nicholls was born in 1949. Since studying at the Camberwell School of Art and Crafts and the Royal College of Art he has had 'one man' exhibitions at the Sheila David and the Bruce Scott Galleries in London. Paul Nicholls' work has been shown in many public exhibitions including those at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Barbican Trade Centre and the Mall Galleries, London.

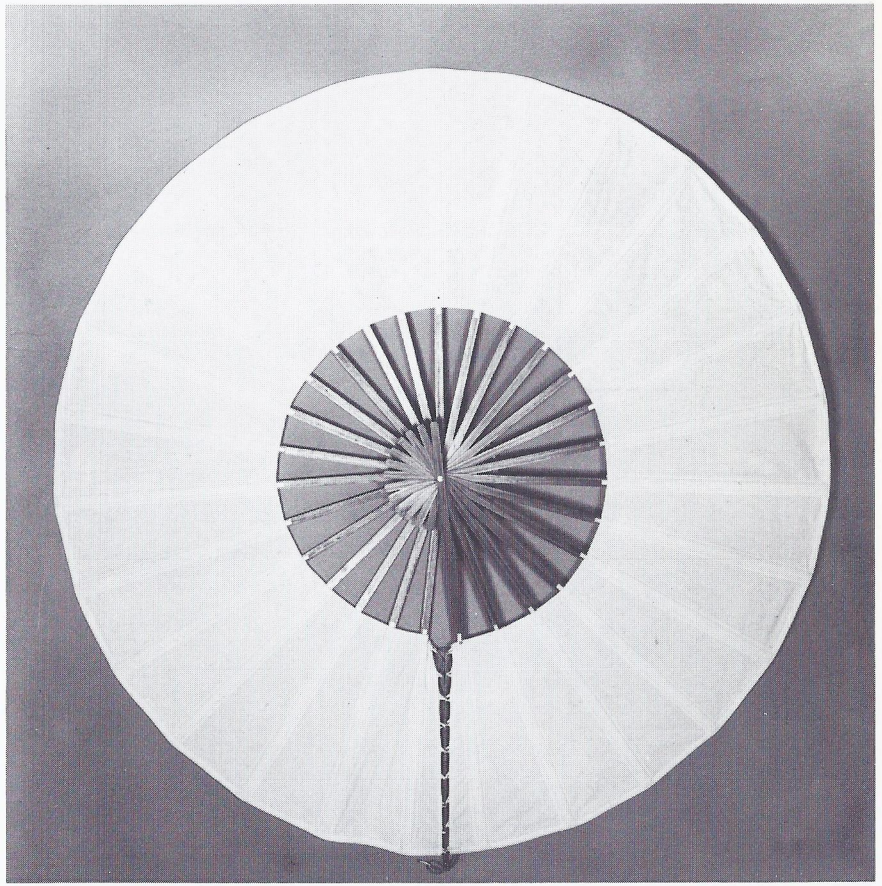
Eng Tow
Exhibit *Chameleon*
Eng Tow was born in Singapore but studied in England, obtaining her Master of Arts degree at the Royal College of Art. A regular contributor to many public and private exhibitions, Eng Tow was awarded the 1978 British Crafts Award in Textiles.



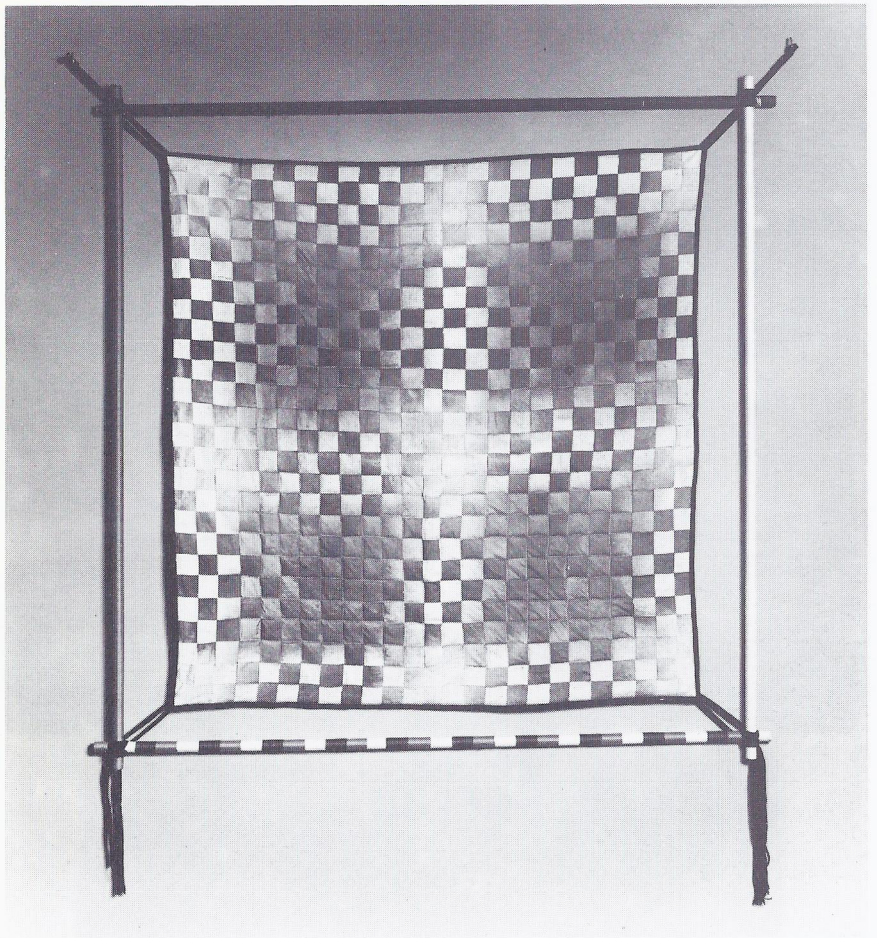
3 **Stephanie Bergman** *Pastis* Lent by Anthony Stokes Ltd.



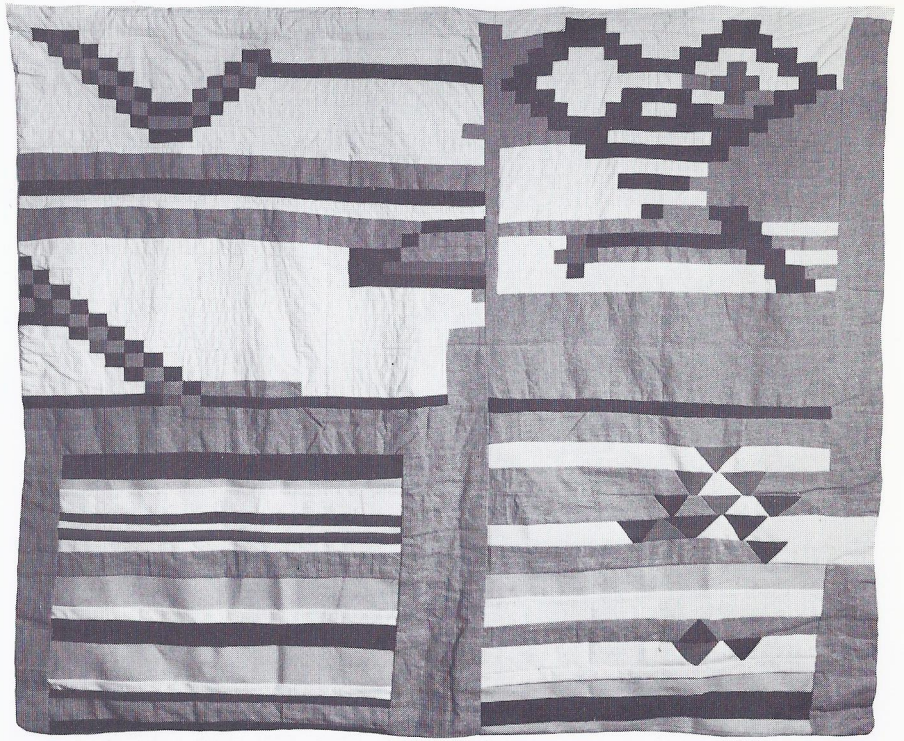
5 **Vivienne Boone** *Battery Birds* Eastbourne College of Art



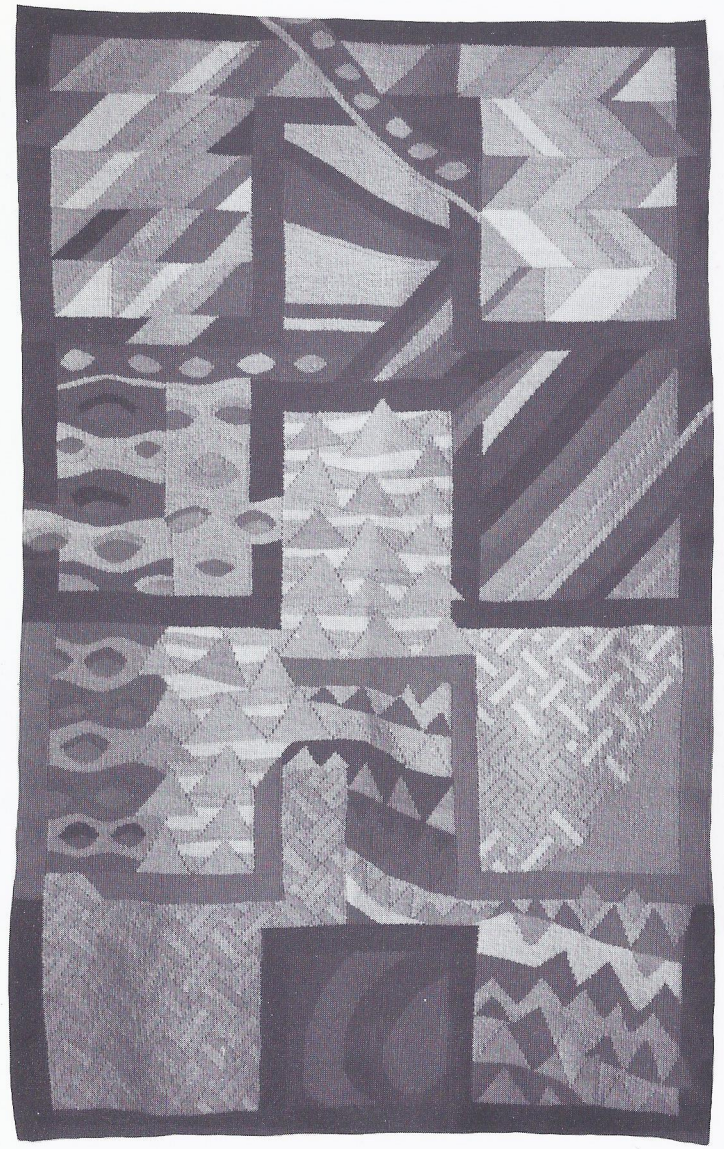
6 **Ruth Brandon** *Calico Circle* Lanchester Polytechnic



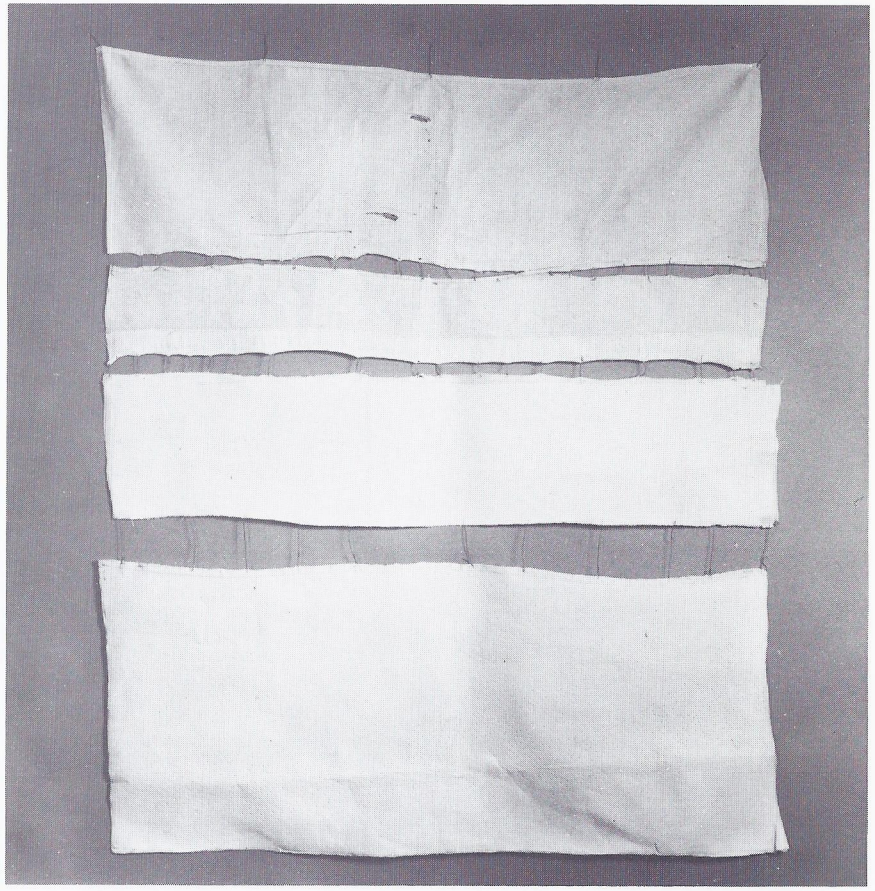
12 **Sally Ann Fraser** *Weave Illusion* Crewe & Alsager College of Higher Education



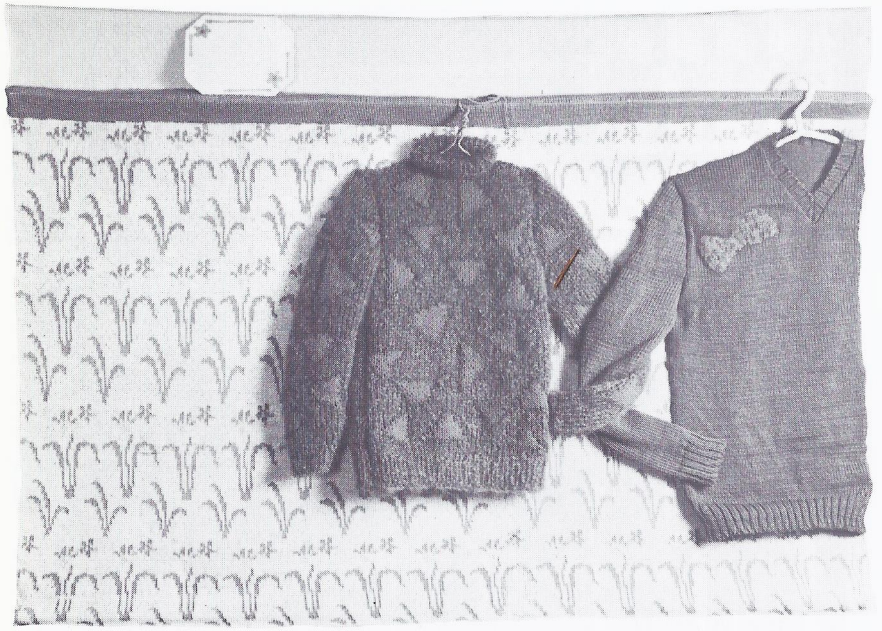
14 **Elizabeth Halls** *Modern Music* Liverpool Polytechnic



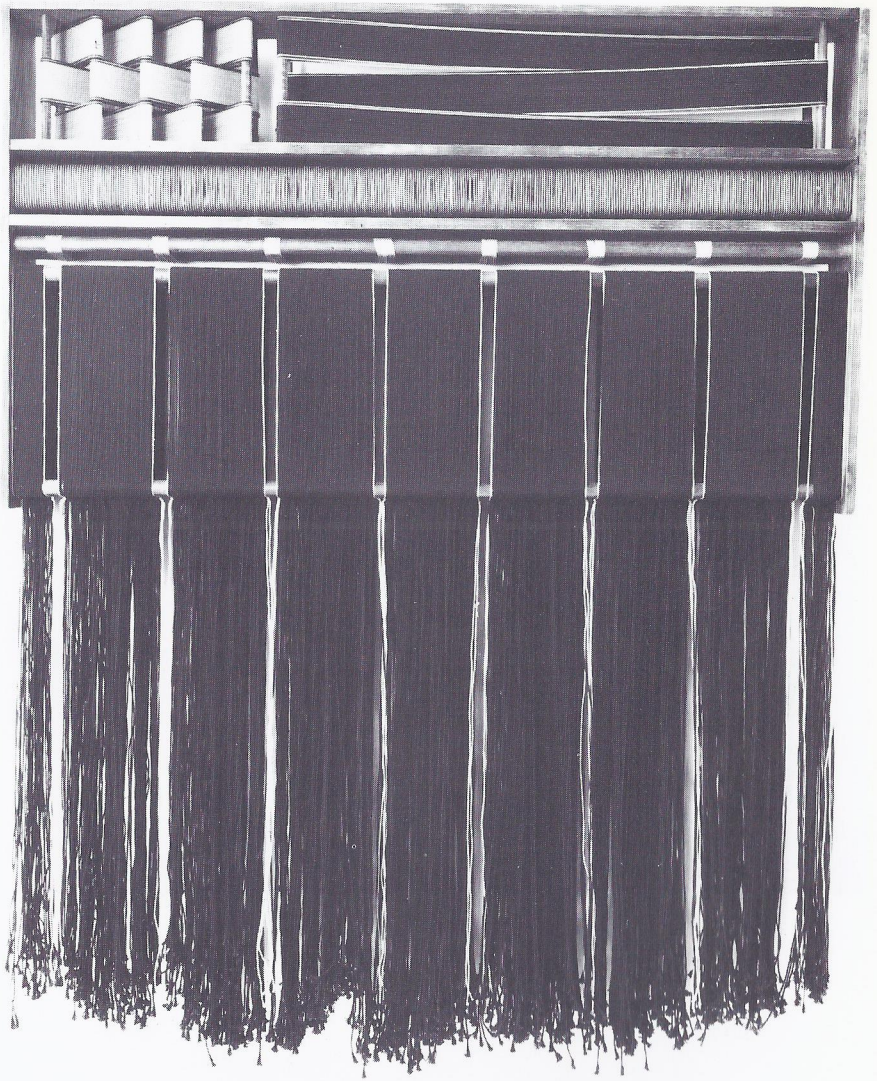
17 **David Hill** *Untitled* Crown Art Collection



24 **Peta M. Lewis** *Number Four* Goldsmith's College



26 **Alison Jane Neate** *Picture Rail Partners* Trent Polytechnic



27 **Paul Nicholls** *Boxed Threads* Crown Art Collection

List of Works

1 **Jenny Bancroft**
Triptych
Manchester Polytechnic

2 **Rosemary Beavis**
Fanfare to a Fairground
Loughborough College of Art & Design

3 **Stephanie Bergman**
Pastis
Lent by Anthony Stokes Ltd.

4 **Alison Blake**
Snap!
North Staffordshire Polytechnic

5 **Vivienne Boone**
Battery Birds
Eastbourne College of Art

6 **Ruth Brandon***
Calico Circle
Lanchester Polytechnic

7 **Peter Collingwood**
Untitled
Crown Art Collection

8 **Alan Davie**
Prayer Mat
Lent by Gimpel Fils

9 **Carolyn Davies**
Paper Letters
Goldsmith's College

10 **Rene Dmytrenko**
Darwen '79
Commissioned

11 **Mary Farmer**
In the Blue
Crown Art Collection

12 **Sally Ann Fraser**
Weave Illusion
Crewe & Alsager College of Higher Education

13 **Susie Freeman**
Sequins
Royal College of Art

14 **Elizabeth Halls**
Modern Music
Liverpool Polytechnic

15 **Jane Happs***
Untitled
Manchester Polytechnic

16 **Diana Harrison**
Squares
Crown Art Collection

17 **David Hill**
Untitled
Crown Art Collection

18 **Maureen Hodge**
Anna Ahkmatova – Requiem 1961
Crown Art Collection

19 **Jane L. Hubbard**
Multiplication 1 to 12
Goldsmith's College

20 **Liz Jaundrill***
Focus in Perspective
Goldsmith's College

21 **Pamela Jeffery**
Frayed It Won't Win
Goldsmith's College

22 **Helen Johnston**
Prismatic Coloured Stripes
Birmingham Polytechnic

23 **Cathryn Alison Lambert**
Foam Cocktail
Loughborough College of Art & Design

24 **Peta M. Lewis***
Number Four
Goldsmith's College

25 **Diane Lucas**
Guzzles Two (Crochet Kebab)
Manchester Polytechnic

26 **Alison Jane Neate**
Picture Rail Partners
Trent Polytechnic

27 **Paul Nicholls**
Boxed Threads
Crown Art Collection

28 **Annette O'Sullivan**
Crown Cat. Serial No. 2034401/12
Goldsmith's College

29 **Ariella Rozen**
My Home
Goldsmith's College

30 **Annie Sherburn**
Dreamer
Goldsmith's College

31 **Carol Simmons***
Flowering Cherry
Winchester School of Art

32 **Catherine Sparkes***
Helter Skelter
Loughborough College of Art & Design

33 **Eng Tow**
Chameleon
Crown Art Collection

34 **Patrick Vaughan**
Tricolour
Camberwell School of Art & Crafts

35 **Grant Windridge**
Charades
Manchester Polytechnic

* Denotes prizewinner

Designed by Andrew Barron
Typesetting by The Humble Wordsmith
Printed by CTD Printers Ltd
Photographs of the work by David Cripps and Frank Youngs

Cover shows a detail from *Darwen '79* by Rene Dmytrenko, photographed by David Cripps